

Ashland School District No. 5, Jackson County, Oregon – The Board of Directors met in regular session Monday, April 12, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Ashland Council Chambers, 1175 East Main Street, Ashland OR 97520. Present were:

Keith Massie)	Chair
Ruth Alexander)	
Carol Davis)	
Heidi Parker)	Board Members
Eva Skuratowicz)	

Juli Di Chiro, Superintendent
Jill Turner, Business Manager
Toni Knox, Certified Representative
Jeanne Peterson, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Massie.

II. Roll Check

A roll of the Board was taken and all members were present.

III. Welcome Visitors and Acknowledgments

A. Vision and Mission Statement

Board members read the vision and mission statements.

IV. Consent Agenda

It was recommended that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Approve minutes of Food Service Advisory meeting of November 30, 2009, Food Service Advisory Meeting of January 4, Food Services Advisory Meeting of January 11, Food Services Advisory Meeting of January 25, work session of February 4, executive and work sessions of February 22, executive session of February 26, Food Service Advisory Meeting of March 8, Food Service Advisory Meeting of March 8, regular session of March 8, and Executive Session and Budget Committee meetings of March 31, 2010.

B. Personnel

I. Requests for Leaves of Absence

Lana Claussen, Ashland High School Social Studies Teacher, requested a .17 miscellaneous unpaid leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year. It was recommended that her leave of absence be approved as presented.

James Haim, Ashland High School Wilderness Charter School Teacher, requested a miscellaneous unpaid leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year. It was recommended that his request be approved as presented.

Katherine Holden, Ashland High School Wilderness Charter School Teacher, requested a miscellaneous unpaid leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year. It was recommended that her request be approved as presented.

Leeanne Wallace, Ashland High School English Teacher, requested a .17 miscellaneous unpaid leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year. It was recommended that her leave of absence be approved as presented.

C. Employment Recommendation

Jennifer Bacon was recommended as a .60 Speech & Language Pathologist at Ashland Middle School for the 2010-11 School year. She has previously worked for the district under a contracted service.

Andrew Brock was recommended as a probationary .60 Music Teacher at Walker Elementary for the 2010-11 school year. He filled this position on a temporary contract for this past year.

Ryan Jackson was recommended as a temporary 1.0 Fourth Grade Teacher at Walker Elementary for the balance of this school year replacing Amy Kneeland who is on maternity leave.

D. Resignations

Leigh Jones, Speech and Language Pathologist currently on leave of absence, submitted a letter of resignation for half of her full-time position. She will remain as a .50 Speech and Language Pathologist. It was recommended that her resignation be accepted as presented.

The minutes of the Food Service Advisory Meeting of March 8, 2010 were corrected to reflect that Jill Williams voted for and Jill Turner voted against having an in district food service program. Director Alexander moved that the Board approve the consent agenda as amended. Director Skuratowicz seconded

and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Hear Public Requests not a part of the agenda

Larry Cooper spoke about the arts program in the school district and the reductions that have been made over the last few years due to budget constraints. He urged the Board to research how we can increase our fine arts programs.

VI. Reports

A. Student and Staff Representative Reports

Toni Knox, Certified Staff representative, reported on the impact of large class sizes which result in less time for students, less space, less prep time, less grading time and less educational assistant time.

B. Ashland High Arts Advocates Report

Jana Carole, President of AHAA (Ashland High Arts Advocates) will report on activities of AHAA and pertinent information regarding the forthcoming budget year.

Jana Carole spoke about AHAA explaining that many of their efforts go to fundraising. The Winter Fine Arts Festival was held in December and approximately \$11,000 was raised. Those funds are funneled directly back into the fine arts program. AHAA will award 28 scholarships to high school students to attend summer enrichment activities.

AHAA established a task force which recommended that the Board redirect planning and restore funding to the AQEM goals; and further that the Board and administration adopt and implement specific arts programming even as early next year. It recommended that the Board and administration consider creating an arts task force of administrators, parents, staff to help make recommendations for strategic planning of the arts program. The Board was asked to consider allowing AHAA to educate parents, students, staff and community members regarding importance of art education, particularly as it pertains to 21st century skills. The Board was asked to review the high school redesign suggestions in regards to the freshmen and sophomore blocks go as they pertain to arts electives.

Public Input was received urging the Board to keep a strong music program and to reestablish balance of the music program across the district.

C. Ashland Schools Foundation

Susan Bacon reported on the fundraising efforts of the Ashland Schools Foundation to raise \$270,000 this year.

D. Use of Facilities

Jill Turner reported on community use of the facilities and how the new policy has been working. She stated that the district has had about 45 casual renters and 5 ongoing renters. She will report further after the year has been completed.

E. Report on Confucius Classroom

Juli Di Chiro reported on the progress made toward establishing a Confucius Classroom at Ashland High School for the 2010-11 school year. The goal for next year is to offer Mandarin at the high school.

F. Superintendent Report

I. Kindergarten Petition

The superintendent reported on a parent petition to increase the kindergarten program to full time. She spoke of the financial difficulties of increasing the kindergarten program to full time.

Public input was received as follows.

Kindergarten is so important. Children need to start on the right foot so they can go through the upper grades with success. The shorter kindergarten program also causes an economic stress on the families.

I am considering putting my daughter in a private school that has a full day kindergarten program. I don't understand why the Board would fund elementary foreign language while keeping a short kindergarten program and cutting educational assistant time. I would like to see some hours reinstated to educational assistants.

Children entering kindergarten are so ready to absorb knowledge. I have a son who went through the extended day kindergarten program, and I have a son who will be going next year to a half-day program. I wonder how he will be impacted by that. I urge you to increase the kindergarten program.

I support bringing back the extended day program. If the full-time kindergarten program is not reinstated, I will be forced to take my child to

another program. My family wants to stay in the district.

I am an SOU student and I have two children. I am a single parent and a college student. I believe in public school education. However, I have to consider sending my child to a private school on a scholarship versus sending my child to a part-time kindergarten program in the school district.

I am disappointed about the kindergarten – I would like it to be longer. I would much rather pay for kindergarten than bus services.

VII. Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business at this time.

VIII. New Business

A. Adopt School Calendar

The 2010-11 School Calendar was recommended for Board approval. Director Alexander moved that the Board approve the 2010-11 School Calendar as presented. Director Skuratowicz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Report

Board members reported on the Food Service Advisory Committee, the Walker Science Fair, the Willow Wind Talent Show, Ashland High School Site Council activities, and volunteer opportunities in the district.

X. Announcements and Appointments

- A. The next regular session will be held on Monday, May 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ashland Council Chambers.
- B. A Budget Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Board Room to receive the proposed 2010-11 budget document.
- C. A Budget Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Board Room.
- D. A Budget Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Board Room.

E. The Board scheduled a work session to be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at 1516 Peachey Road to review the superintendent's evaluation.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Peterson, Administrative Assistant.

Chair

Clerk